

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01103 211250Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
----- 104701

P 210800Z MAY 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0543

S E C R E T ALGIERS 1103

EXDIS

NOFORN

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS4

TAGS: PFOR, AG

SUBJ: TWO SIDES OF BOUMEDIENE

1. SUMMARY DURING RECENT MONTHS PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAS RISEN TO POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIRD WORLD AND HAS, WITH HIGH OIL PRICES, SEEN HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS GREATLY ENHANCED. THOUGH MANY OBSERVERS THEREFORE BELIEVE HIS POSITION IS STRONGER THAN EVER IT COULD BE MISTAKE TO CONFUSE HIS EXTERNAL SUCCESSES WITH INTERNAL STANDING. WHILE CONCENTRATING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS BOUMEDIENE HAS NEGLECTED SOME OF HIS IMMEDIATE SUPPORTERS INCLUDING ARMY OFFICERS, AND CONCENTRATED RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS OWN PERSON. HE HAS ALSO REVEALED HIS MARRIAGE TO YOUNG WOMAN OF DOUBTFUL BACKGROUND AND TARNISHED HIS IMAGE AS ASCETIC LEADER REMOVED FROM SELFISH IMPULSES.

BOUMEDIENE IS AWARE OF POPULAR GRIEVANCES AND NEED TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THEREFORE HE WILL PROBABLY TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES, INCLUDING DISSOLUTION OF HIS MARRIAGE, TO REDRESS SITUATION. THUS, WITH CAVEAT THAT ONE MAN RULE IS ALWAYS VULNERABLE, WE CONTINUE TO RATE ALGERIA AMONG MOST STABLE THRID

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ALGIER 01103 211250Z

WORLD STATES AND BOUMEDIENE HIMSELF AS A LEADER WITH

WHOM WE CAN MAINTAIN USEFUL DIALOGUE RE MIDDLE EAST  
AND WORLD PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY

2. DURING PAST SIX MONTHS PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAS  
VISITED MOSCOW, PEKING, P'YONGYANG, HANOI, WASHINGTON  
AND HAVANA. HE HAS HOSTED NON-ALIGNED AND ARAB  
SUMMITS AND HAS RECEIVED A STEADY FLOW OF CHIEFS OF  
STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE FORCED A SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE UNGA TO BRING THRID WORLD GRIEVANCES  
BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS.

3. BOUMEDIENE INVARIABLY LEAVES A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION  
ON FOREIGNERS. THIS IS NOT WITHOUT REASON SINCE HE  
STANDS ABOVE MOST OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES AS A SERIOUS  
MAN WHO COMBINES REVOLUTIONARY ZEAL WITH A SENSE OF  
PROPORTION AND AWARENESS OF REALITIES. HIS MESSAGE  
RE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, SOCIALISM, ANTI-COLONIALISM  
AND RECOVERY OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS ONE WHOSE TIME  
HAS COME, AT LEAST FOR THIRD WORLD.

4. IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED BY FOREIGN OBSERVERS THAT  
BOUMEDIENE'S INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES, COMBINED WITH  
ALGERIA'S ENHANCED ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, HAVE STRENGTHENED  
HIS POSITION WITHIN ALGERIA. HOWEVER, AS POLICY-MAKING  
BY COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION HAS GIVEN WAY TO PRESIDENTIAL  
RULE, BOUMEDIENE HAS BECOM INCREASINGLY EXPOSED TO  
POPULAR GRIEVANCES ON INFLATION, SHORTAGES, POLITICAL  
REPRESSION AND ASSORTED ISSUES. HE HAS ALSO AT TIMES  
ANTAGONIZED SOME OF HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES WHOSE  
CRITICISMS CENTER ON ARBITRARY FROM OF HIS RULE MORE  
THAN ON ITS SUBSTANCE. THEIR DISAFFECTION (PERHAPS  
TEMPORARY) IS PARTLY DERIVED FROM THEIR AWARENESS  
THAT HE HAS PERSONAL FLAWS AND HIS JUDGMENT IS  
FALLIBLE. WHEN IN 1965 BOUMEDIENE OUSTED BEN BELLA  
(WHO WAS CRITICIZED FOR LETTING DOMESTIC AFFAIRS  
DRIFT WHILE HE ENGAGED IN FOREIGN ADVENTURES) HE  
UNDERTOOK TO DO AWAY WITH ONE MAN RULE AND DEVOTE  
HIMSELF TO BUILDING A PROSPEROUS ALGERIA. INCREASINGLY,  
ALGERIANS QUESTION WHETHER BOUMEDIENE IS FOLLOWING  
PATH OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ALGIER 01103 211250Z

5. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT, THOUGH SUBTERRANEAN,  
CURRENT COMPLAINT AMONG HIS INITMATES INVOLVES HIS  
MARRIAGE LAST SUMMER TO A DIVORCED WOMAN OF DOUBTFUL  
MORALS AND UNCERTAIN (PARTIALLY EUROPEAN AND CHRISTIAN)  
PARENTAGE. HE WAS GIVEN FULL DOSSIER ON HER PAST  
BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE BUT WENT AHEAD AGAINST ADVICE  
OF THOSE WHOSE FORTUNES ARE TIED TO HIS. HIS PERSONAL

LIFE IS NO LONGER ABOVE REPROACH.

6. AGRARIAN REVOLUTION, HOWEVER LOFTY ITS AIMS, IS ANOTHER FOCUS OF DISCONTENT SINCE ITS IMPLEMENTATION OFFENDS A WIDE SECTION, IF NOT MAJORITY, OF POPULATION. TENSION IS ALSO CREATED BY HIS STUBBORN SEARCH FOR A SOCIALIST WAY IN SPITE OF FACT THAT MOST ALGERIANS, INCLUDING HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES, ARE NOT TRUE BELIEVERS. OTHERS FAULT HIS FAILURE TO MOVE TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS AND TO FIND A ROLE FOR FLN PARTY.

7. BOUMEDIENE'S RULE IS BASED ON COHESION OF SMALL "OUJDA GROUP" WHICH HAS REMAINED UNITED THROUGH GRADUAL ELIMINATION OF RIVAL LEADERS AND HAS EMERGED AS A PRIVILEGED ELITE WHICH DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST OUTSIDERS. THROUGH TRUSTED ASSOCIATES BOUMEDIENE HAS RETAINED CONTROL OF ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES AND HAS KEPT HIS ASSOCIATES OFF-BALANCE BY SKILLFULLY PLAYING ON THEIR AMBITIONS AND WEAKNESSES. WHEN THEY BECOME AWARE OF HIS MANIPULATIONS, HOWEVER, THEY SOMETIMES HAVE FEELING THEY ARE BEING USED.

8. RECENTLY WE HAVE HEARD THAT BOUMEDIENE HAS, IN HIS PRE-OCCUPATION WITH WORLD ROLE, BEEN NEGLECTING ARMY OFFICERS WHOSE CAMPS HE USED TO VISIT REGULARLY. AT SAME TIME HE IS REPORTEDLY ONCE AGAIN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT AND ARMY WHICH COULD SATISFY SOME BUT ANTAGONIZE OTHERS. (HE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, LIKE TO MAKE CHANGES AND MAY MERELY BE KEEPING HIS TEAM OFF BALANCE.)

9. THROUGH MILITARY SECURITY AND PRESIDENTIAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AS WELL AS PRIVATE CHANNELS,  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 ALGIER 01103 211250Z

BOUMEDIENE IS AWARE OF ALL THE GRIEVANCES MENTIONED ABOVE AND PROBABLY MORE. WE CAN ASSUME THEREFORE THAT HE WILL TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER EROSION OF HIS POPULARITY AND CONTAIN DISSENT AMONG HIS ASSOCIATES. WITH JUDICIOUS APPROPRIATION OF REWARDS AND POSITIONS, RENewed ATTENTION TO THE ARMY, CAUTION ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND DISSOLUTION OF HIS MARRIAGE HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE AS UNDISPUTED LEADER OF AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS AND INFLUENTIAL COUNTRY. IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT HOWEVER TO RECOVER AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE THAT AURA OF MAGIC WHICH ONCE SURROUNDED HIS ASCETIC PERSONALITY. AND FINALLY, POSSIBILITY OF SUDDEN CHANGE CAN NEVER BE RULED OUT IN A COUNTRY WHOSE INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES ARE NOT ROOTED IN TRADITION OR ALWAYS BASED

ON CONSENSUS.

10. IN SPITE OF BOUMEDIENE'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WE  
BELIEVE USG SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONSIDER ALGERIAN  
REGIME AMONG MOST STABLE IN THIRD WORLD AND BOUMEDIENE  
HIMSELF A WORTHY PARTNER IN QUEST FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE  
EAST AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS OF DIVERSE BACK-  
GROUND.

11. ABOVE IS EXDIS-NOFORN BECAUSE IT CONTAINS  
INFORMATION FROM SENSITIVE SOURCES.  
EAGLETON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ALGIER01103  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740126-0183  
**From:** ALGIERS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740532/aaaabbue.tel  
**Line Count:** 183  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by elyme>; RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TWO SIDES OF BOUMEDIENE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AG, (BOUMEDIENE, HOUARI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005